



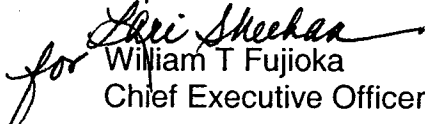
County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

May 2, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: *for* 
William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Senator Ridley-Thomas to Hold Roundtable Discussion on MLK

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas will hold a roundtable discussion today at 4:00 p.m. to explore options to reopen Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital. The event will be held in Los Angeles at the California Endowment for Healthy Communities, 1000 N. Alameda Street, Room 2 Sierra. Sheila Shima will represent this office, and John Schunhoff and Dr. Robert Splawn will be representing the Department of Health Services.

In addition, as previously reported in our Sacramento Update of April 24, 2008, Assembly Member Dymally held an informational hearing on May 2, 2008 to discuss the impact of health facility and emergency room closures on access to care. Carol Meyer of the Department of Health Services represented the County.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 2762 (Eng), as amended on April 23, 2008, would establish a diversity education pilot project. The bill specifies that each school selected to participate in the pilot program would receive a one-time grant of \$25,000 to improve and implement crisis intervention plans to minimize the impact of inter-group violence on the educational process, establish community partnership programs to combat harassment and prejudice, and adopt and implement written anti-harassment and anti-hate policy that is in compliance with current law and is communicated to school personnel and students. Additionally, AB 2762 would require school employees, who become aware that an act

of harassment or discrimination has occurred, to immediately report the incident to the school principal. The principal would subsequently initiate an investigation and take appropriate action.

The author indicates that California has experienced an increase in bias incidents in public schools. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) indicates that this legislation would allow school districts within Los Angeles County to apply for the educational grants, highlighting the importance of integrating human relations in the school curriculum and promoting the adoption of tools to respond to the increase of bias-motivated incidents. Additionally, by mandating school administrators address incidents of harassment, discrimination, and criminal threats, the State would encourage the development of proactive methods that address tensions before a tragic event takes place.

The HRC and this office support AB 2762. Support for this bill is consistent with existing policy to support legislation to reduce hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and increase communities' capacity to address inter-group relations issues in a positive way. In addition, support is consistent with the County's previous support of AB 1056 (Chu) of 2006 which would have established the Tolerance Education Pilot Program. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2762.**

AB 2762 is supported by numerous organizations including the Asian Youth Center, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network of Orange County, Japanese American Citizens League, L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, National Association of Social Workers, National Council of Jewish Women - California, Organization of Chinese Americans, South Asian Network, Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety and Yolo County Supervisor, Mariko Yamada. This bill is opposed by the Capitol Resource Family Impact. This bill is pending consideration by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 292 (Wiggins), as amended on April 2, 2008, would bring California law into consistency with current Federal law to allow counties to place children served by the AB 3632 program in out-of-state group homes that are operated as for profit entities. In 1984, the California Legislature enacted AB 3632, which assigned responsibility to state agencies and counties to provide mental health services to special education students and meet the goals of an individualized education plan. While it is not specifically in California statute, it is the position of the State Controller's Office that payment for placements in out-of-state for profit facilities is prohibited. As county mental health department audits have occurred, payments for these placement services have been disallowed. Recent audits of Orange and San Diego County Departments of Mental Health disallowed such payments received for services provided through the AB 3632 program. The result is counties owing millions of dollars to the State in repayments for multiple years of placement services.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) indicates that Los Angeles County annually places 156 children outside of the State in for profit group homes, in compliance with Federal law. The cost for this service is approximately \$10 million annually. Due to the special needs of these youth, there are no placements available for these children in California. As such, DMH utilizes these out-of-state placements. DMH indicates that audit disallowances for out-of-state placement payments for the current and prior years would be disastrous for the AB 3632 program in Los Angeles County. Resources for the care and treatment of the 156 children in the current placements and the mental health budget in Los Angeles County would be further undermined. DMH and this office support SB 292. Support of SB 292 is consistent with existing policy to support full and timely funding of Federally-mandated mental health services for special education students under the AB 3632 program. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 292.**

SB 292 is sponsored by the California Mental Health Directors Association and is supported by Contra Costa County and Orange County. There is no registered opposition. SB 292 passed the Senate Floor on January 30, 2008 by a vote of 38 to 0 and is now awaiting a hearing date in the Assembly Human Services Committee.

SB 1516 (Simitian), as amended on April 1, 2008, would enact the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010 and place the measure on the November 2010 Statewide primary ballot. If approved by voters, it would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4 billion for library construction and renovation.

SB 1516 would award funds for up to \$30 million per project with a minimum funding level of \$500,000. Local agencies would be required to pay 35 percent of the project costs. Funds could be used for acquisition or construction of new public libraries or additions to existing libraries, remodeling/rehabilitation of existing facilities for conversion to public libraries, and payment of fees to architects, engineers and other professionals. However, funds could not be used to purchase books, library materials, administrative costs or operating expenses.

In 2000, California voters approved Proposition 14, the California Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act, which authorized \$350 million in State General Obligation Bonds for the acquisition, construction, remodeling or rehabilitation of public library facilities. Although these funds have been expended, approximately 75 percent of all eligible applications were not awarded grants due to the large number of applicants. In 2006, Proposition 81, which would have authorized \$600 million in State General Obligation Bonds to finance library construction and renovation, was rejected by the voters. Most recently, SB 156 (Simitian), which would have authorized \$4 billion for library construction and renovation, died in the Senate.

The County Public Library applied for funding for four projects under the 2000 Library Bond Act. Two projects submitted by the County were funded (Lawndale and Acton/Agua Dulce). However, the other two projects (Topanga Canyon and East San Gabriel Valley Regional Library) were not funded. In addition, three cities served by the County Public Library (Diamond Bar, Duarte, and West Hollywood) submitted projects. None of these projects received funding.

The current proposal would give priority funding to projects rated outstanding which were submitted but not funded by the 2000 Bond Act. This provision would make the County's East San Gabriel Valley Regional Library project and the West Hollywood Library, which is served by the County, eligible for priority funding as both of these projects received an outstanding rating.

The County Librarian indicates that notwithstanding these specific projects, the County Public Library has additional construction and renovation needs. The County Public Library faces a serious, long-term problem with crowded and outdated library facilities. Financial limitations have prevented the Department from expanding or replacing facilities to any significant degree since the 1970s. Currently, the County Public Library system has over \$1 billion in capital project needs.

The County Public Library and this office support SB 1516. Support for SB 1516 is consistent with the Board's prior actions to support Proposition 14, Proposition 81, and SB 156. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support SB 1516.**

SB 1516 is supported by Friends of the Madera Ranchos Library and the Yucaipa Valley Friends of the Library. There is no known opposition. SB 1516 passed the Senate Education Committee by a vote of 8 to 1 on April 17, 2008 and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it was placed on the suspense file.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored AB 1903 (Hernandez), which would restore limited liability immunity for use of the County's flood control system to recharge underground aquifers, was approved on consent on the Assembly Floor on Thursday, May 1, 2008, and now proceeds to the Senate, where it is likely to be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL
DD:IGR:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721